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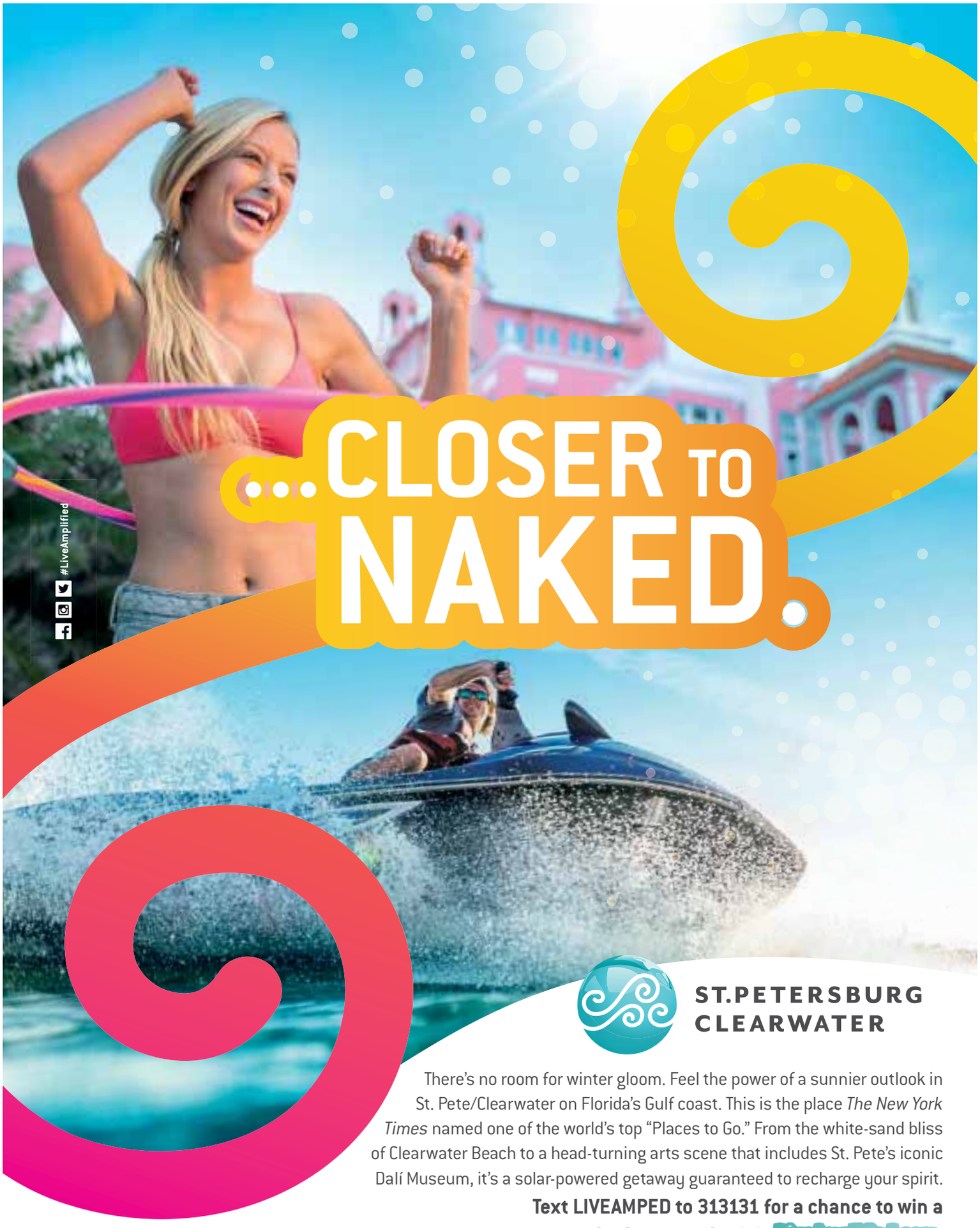

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NHL POWER RANKINGS

The Islanders continue to surge. 29

Staten Island triple-stabbing suspect sought. 6

Gorgeous desserts to sweeten Valentine's Day. 25

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A SHAKE-UP AT FASHION WEEK

Designer Rebecca Minkoff's new #SeeBuyWear collection could revolutionize the traditional show system. 18

GETTY IMAGES

DOJ SUES FERGUSON

1 The U.S. Justice Department filed a civil rights lawsuit against Ferguson, Missouri, on Wednesday to enforce a police and court reform plan after the city said it wanted to amend some aspects of a consent decree it had reached with the federal agency. The Justice Department initiated a civil rights investigation into Ferguson's policing after an unarmed black teenager was killed by a white police officer in 2014. It resulted in a report that was extremely critical of Ferguson's police and court systems. REUTERS

SUICIDE BOMBS IN NIGERIA

2 More than 60 people were killed by a twin suicide bomb attack at a camp in northern Nigeria for people displaced by an insurgency of the jihadist Boko Haram group, a military and emergency official said on Wednesday. The attack took place some 50 miles outside the capital of Borno state, center of the seven-year insurgency, they said. It took place on Tuesday, but a breakdown in the telephone system had prevented the information being made public earlier. REUTERS

HOMEPAGE CHANGE

3 Twitter made a dramatic product change on Wednesday, saying it will recast the way it displays tweets on its homepage by customizing them to individual users, instead of uniformly displaying tweets in reverse chronological order. The change to the timeline — as the homepage is known — is also designed to appeal to advertisers by giving more prominence to tweets that advertisers pay for to promote products. REUTERS

Mamadou Maiga, 9, from Harlem, waits to catch a glimpse of Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders.

MEETING IN HARLEM

7 Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders meets with Rev. Al Sharpton at Sylvia's Restaurant on Wednesday in Harlem.

7 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

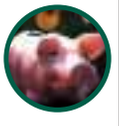
ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

NJ COACH SEX ASSAULT

4 A southern New Jersey softball coach has been charged with sexual assault for allegedly having sex with one of his players. David Light, 33, faces four counts of second-degree sexual assault and fourth-degree criminal sexual contact, NBC reported. Authorities accuse Light of having had a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old girl in 2008 while he was her softball coach at Gloucester City High School.

JASON NUCKOLLS

NYC NOT A 'PIGGY BANK'



5 New York City's fiscal watchdog said the city faces much bigger budget deficits in coming years than the mayor has forecast and warned state lawmakers about treating the city like a "piggy bank." The state, like the city, is finalizing its budget and will soon make decisions affecting New York City. "Some upstate legislators just don't get it," New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer said during his review of the city budget. "They see New York City as their piggy bank." REUTERS

HIT-AND-RUN KILLS TEEN

6 A teen was killed in Queens in an overnight hit-and-run that remains under investigation. Shortly after midnight on Wednesday morning, NYPD officers arrived at the intersection of Francis Lewis Boulevard and Sunrise Highway in Queens after receiving reports of a struck pedestrian, police stated. At the scene, police found an unconscious 16-year-old girl who was taken to Jamaica Hospital where she was pronounced dead. A dark-colored van traveling east on Sunrise Highway hit the girl as she was walking in the crosswalk. JASON NUCKOLLS

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Meet the 'croissoli,' a hybrid

Queens filmmaker Savannah Rice created what could be the next "cronut" for her comedy.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

Move aside cronut, there's a new pastry in town and it's making its debut on the big screen.

Queens filmmaker Savannah Rice is bringing to life the new hybrid pastry the croissoli — part croissant, part cannoli — in her first film as a director, "Holy Croissoli."

As a film producing and production design major, the Sunnyside resident came up with the idea for the film with her friend David Massa as a play on the idea of the cronut. Rice decided to instead mix her two favorite pastries — croissants and cannolis.

"'Holy Croissoli' is about something that's so important to all of us: food!" Rice wrote in a Kickstarter description for the film. "Food is the subtle glue that binds us together, the one experience that transcends race, culture or religion."

The film is a 12-minute comedy, which follows the story of a chef who is in the midst of his fame with the new pastry but doesn't want to just go down as the guy who created the croissoli.

However, he becomes so engulfed in the idea of being a celebrity that he runs the risk of losing a friend.

The film takes on the world of "flash celebrity" through the use of food and tells a story of wanting attention and fame.

"It's funny, but it's also very cute," Rice said. "It touches on society today, and I think that's the statement I wanted to make."

To fund the overall project, Rice, who is also working with producer Dan Finley, has turned to Kickstarter to raise a goal of $8,000 that will go toward production locations, food, cast and crew, props and production design, and equipment.

And the creation of the croissoli went just beyond an idea for the film, Rice actually decided to really bake the pastry — first as just a selling point for the campaign but now as an added perk if you donate a certain amount.

Savannah Rice holds up a basket of her creations.

"It's funny, but it's also very cute. It touches on society today and I think that's the statement I wanted to make."

Rice

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SAVANNAH RICE

The croissoli — whose recipe came from one of Rice's childhood friends — is created with the use of croissant dough, cannoli cream and friend in peanut oil.

People who pledge $10 or more to the Kickstarter campaign will receive the croissoli recipe and those who donate $100 or more will have a dozen of the treats delivered to a home or office.

Rice even took the treats out onto the streets to have people taste it and she said she was met with positive reactions, with most people rating the pasty a 9 or 10 on a scale from 1 to 10.

"People loved it," she said. "They were like, 'Oh my god, this is really good' and 'this is amazing.'"

Shooting for "Holy Croissoli" is expected for mid-March with a completion date in June. Rice said she also plans to submit the film to festivals.

For more information or to donate, visit "Holy Croissoli" on Kickstarter.

BRIEF

Long Island woman arrested for public sex on Las Vegas Ferris wheel

Turns out what happens in Vegas doesn't always stay in Vegas.

A Long Island woman has found herself in some hot water after she and another man were arrested for committing various sex acts on a Ferris wheel in Las Vegas, the New York Daily News reported.

Chloe Scordianos, 21, of Long Island and her alleged public sex accomplice, Philip Frank Panzica III, 27, of Houston, were caught on the High Roller Ferris Wheel and handed a felony charge of committing sex acts in public which included "extensive nudity and cunnilingus," the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

The couple reportedly ignored several requests from those manning the wheel to stop smoking, quit their various sex acts, and to put their clothes back on.

The couple's shenanigans were reportedly recorded by people in other Ferris wheel cars.

Scordianos' lawyer, Chris Rasmussen, spoke for his client, saying the charges were false because "people who ride the [Ferris wheel] believe they have an expectation of privacy in the individual cars," according to the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

This apparently isn't the first time a couple has been caught doing the dirty on the Ferris wheel.

There's even an entire website dedicated to providing tips on how to get away with it. MATT LEE

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Man sought for stabbing mom & kids

The suspect, Michael Sykes, remained at large last night after the attack in a Staten Island hotel.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

Police are searching for a suspect after a woman and her children were stabbed at a hotel on Staten Island, killing the mother and two baby girls — and leaving another child in critical condition.

The stabbing was reported at the Ramada Inn at 535 N. Gannon Ave. in Willowbrook, just after 10 a.m. yesterday. Four people, a 28-year-old mother and her three daughters, were stabbed by a man believed to be her boyfriend.

The four victims were transported to a nearby hospital where the mother and her 1-year-old were pronounced dead. Mayor Bill de Blasio said the youngest victim, a 5-month-old girl, had succumbed to her injuries by Wednesday afternoon, while a 2-year-old girl was out of surgery and in critical but stable conditon.

"This is an atrocious crime and I think every parent would share my view that our hearts break when we see an innocent child attacked," de Blasio said.

The victims were homeless and had been staying at the motel since Dec. 6, along with 28 other families — who will be relocated immediately, de Blasio said. The hotel will also no longer be used to house homeless families, he said.

Authorities said the suspect — identified as Michael Sykes, who lives at the Howard Houses in Brooklyn — was the father of the youngest daughter.

According to surveillance video, the three children and their mother were with Sykes at a nearby deli on Victory Boulevard at about 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, police said. At about 8 a.m. the five got back to the motel, and Sykes did not immediately go into their room but instead stayed in the hallway. He went into the room at about 8:50 and left four minutes later.

Sykes then got on a bus and went to the Staten Island Ferry, according to police. At about 10:30 a.m. he called a family member, admitted to the crime and said he could take his own life.

Police recovered a large bloody kitchen knife, believed to be the murder weapon, at the scene.

The suspect has no criminal or psychological history, police said. He had one prior argument with the children's mother on Tuesday at about 4 p.m. when he took her phone.

Police have released photos of Sykes, who is still at large.

"We want to get him, we want to get him very, very quickly and get him off the streets as fast as we can," said Police Commissioner Bill Bratton.

De Blasio said the city will reach out to all 41 hotels being used to house homeless families in the city and indicate that Department of Homeless Services-contracted security will be provided at no additional cost. All the hotels would have to do is let the security on their property for 24-hour surveillance.

"This is an atrocious crime and I think every parent would share my view that our hearts break when we see an innocent child attacked."
De Blasio

Michael Sykes NYPD

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A person begs for change near Penn Station in New York City. GETTY IMAGES

Campaign would help homeless

Operation Stay Warm NYC would create care packages for those in need.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

One New York City resident is looking to lend a helping hand to bring warmth to those in need.

Alison Brettschneider has launched a campaign called Operation Stay Warm NYC, which is aimed at creating care packages that will be distributed to homeless individuals throughout the city.

$8K
RAISED SO FAR

The idea for the project came up when Brettschneider was thinking about the recent blizzard and wanted to find a way to help out, especially after she said she noticed the homeless population grow every day.

With a history of looking for a way to give back — through work with her fashion company 25 Park — she decided she would auction off some of her designer bags to raise the money for the packages.

She said she encourages others to either find something they no longer use and can sell or to donate a few dollars.

"Remember, one random act when multiplied by thousands, can change the world," Brettschneider wrote on the campaign's GoFundMe page.

Brettschneider plans to document the whole process of going with friends to stores such as Target to purchase items, assembling packages and finally distributing them throughout New York City.

The care package will include sleeping bags, travel-size toiletries, socks, tea bags and gift cards to purchase food.

The campaign has already raised more than $8,000. For more information visit the Operation Stay Warm NYC GoFundMe page.

"Remember, one random act when multiplied by thousands can change the world."

The campaign's GoFundMe page

L train closure could happen in 2018

Officials from the MTA said that the L train tunnel closure that has all Brooklyn hipsters losing their shirts could happen as early as 2018, the New York Daily News reported.

The projected date, which is quite a ways off, allows for officials to meet with the community and to consider the best ways to both address the needs of the community and the tunnel's much needed repairs.

The Daily News explained two plans that the MTA is considering, neither of which sound painless for commuters.

"One plan would keep trains flowing between Canarsie and the Eighth Avenue and 14th Street stop in Manhattan, requiring a partial closure for at least three years. But that would hamstring service by squeezing trains through a single path," the Daily News explained.

The other plan would extend the project to five years by shutting down service on the train on nights and weekends.

"Construction timelines for the project will be developed as planning and design work commences," MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz wrote in a statement. "No timeline has been established for work to begin on the Canarsie Tube itself," he said.

It would appear, however, that Brooklyn seems damned either way come 2018. MATTHEW LEE

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Dunkin' Donuts sued over sales-tax charges

Cups of coffee M01229/FLICKR

Dunkin' Donuts franchises in New York City and New Jersey are the target of a lawsuit alleging nontaxable items are being taxed at the expense of Dunkin' customers.

A Fort Lee, New Jersey, couple became the plaintiff in the suit when they said they were overcharged at Dunkin' Donuts, which was told of the error but failed to correct it, Newsday reported.

"The unlawful surcharge is disguised as a 'sales tax' on the customer's receipt," according to the lawsuit, filed by lawyers Carl J. Mayer and Ted M. Rosenberg, NorthJersey.com stated. The suit claimed taxes were added to purchases of bottled water and packaged coffee, which are not taxable.

Mayer said the chain could have made as much as $10 million off New York customers for falsely charging sales tax, Fortune.com reported.

"In the aggregate, it's probably millions of dollars from consumers' pockets not just in New Jersey but in New York as well, and who knows, maybe across the country," Mayer told NorthJersey.com.

The Massachusetts-based chain said it is asking its franchisees if customers were charged undue taxes, according to Newsday. There are about 1,000 Dunkin' Donuts in New York and New Jersey.

Mayer and Rosenberg are seeking class-action status for the suit, NorthJersey.com said, adding that Mayer said he is aware of shoppers being taxed for buying water and packaged coffee at "a couple of dozen" Dunkin' Donuts around New Jersey.

JASON NUCKOLLS

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US and India consider joint patrols in South China Sea: US official

American assault war ship USS Boxer LHD 4 GETTY IMAGES

The United States and India have held talks about conducting joint naval patrols that a U.S. defense official said could include the disputed South China Sea, a move that would likely anger Beijing, which claims most of the waterway.

Washington wants its regional allies and other Asian nations to take a more united stance against China over the South China Sea, where tensions have spiked in the wake of Beijing's construction of seven man-made islands in the Spratly archipelago.

India and the United States have ramped up military ties in recent years, holding naval exercises in the Indian Ocean that last year involved the Japanese navy.

But the Indian navy has never carried out joint patrols with another country and a naval spokesman told Reuters there was no change in the government's policy of only joining an international military effort under the United Nations flag.

He pointed to India's refusal to be part of anti-piracy missions involving dozens of countries in the Gulf of Aden and instead carrying out its own operations there since 2008.

The U.S. defense official said the two sides had discussed joint patrols, adding that both were hopeful of launching them within the year. The patrols would likely be in the Indian Ocean where the Indian navy is a major player as well as the South China Sea, the official told Reuters in New Delhi on condition of anonymity.

REUTERS

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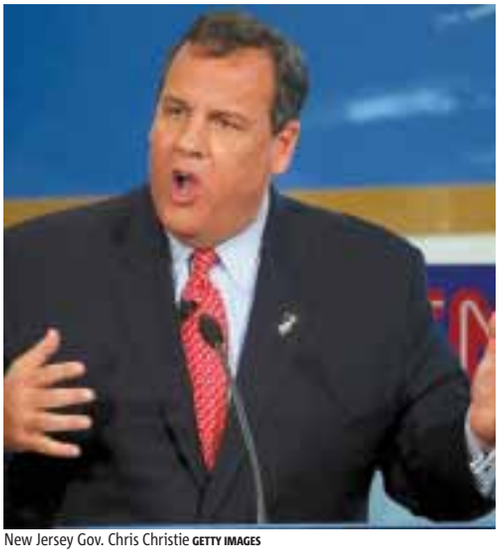
Republicans Christie, Fiorina dropping White House bids

Trump's remaining opponents, most of them mainstream Republicans, will likely benefit from their departures, which leave seven Republicans from a field that once had 17 candidates.



New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie GETTY IMAGES

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former business executive Carly Fiorina are ending their campaigns for the 2016 Republican nomination, narrowing the field of rivals facing businessman Donald Trump for the right to compete in the Nov. 8 presidential election.

A senior aide confirmed to Reuters on Wednesday that Christie would pull out, a day after the combative Republican's sixth-place finish in the New Hampshire primary raised doubts about his viability as a candidate.

Fiorina, a former Hewlett-Packard chief executive, said in a Facebook post on Wednesday she would suspend her campaign. The only woman in the Republican field placed seventh in New Hampshire.

Christie had poured much of his campaign's resources into New Hampshire and had considered a good showing there critical. He won only about 7 percent of votes on Tuesday, despite a pugnacious performance at a Republican debate last weekend.

Trump, a billionaire real estate mogul and former reality TV star, has dominated the Republican race and easily won the party primary in New Hampshire on Tuesday on a wave of voter anger at traditional U.S. politicians.

Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, a democratic socialist, defeated former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in the state's Democratic contest.

The results testified to the sizable share of American voters upset over the slow economic recovery, immigration and America's place in the world and who are willing to shake up Washington.

Trump's victory showed pundits were wrong to think he would quickly self-destruct based on his penchant for insults and imprecise plans for the presidency. He had lost last week to Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas in the first nominating contest, the Iowa caucuses.

The odds of Trump winning the White House, once seen as an extremely long shot, improved significantly after his victory in New Hampshire, online betting site Ladbrokes PLC said.

Trump is now at 9/2, compared with 7/1 last week, meaning his chances of victory in November are now 18 percent. Clinton still had the best odds of becoming president at 50/50, Ladbrokes said.

Trump's remaining rivals are still splintered.

Ohio's Republican governor, John Kasich, finished second in New Hampshire, followed by Cruz, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida. REUTERS

BRIEF

A breakfast in Harlem underscores key challenge for White House hopeful Sanders

Bernie Sanders had breakfast with one of America's most prominent civil rights activists, Al Sharpton, just hours after trouncing Hillary Clinton in the New Hampshire Democratic presidential nominating contest.

The meeting marked a recognition by Sanders that his campaign must swiftly broaden its base of support if he has any chance of mounting a long-term challenge to Clinton, who consistently polls better among African-American voters.

They will play a crucial role in the Democratic race as it moves to South Carolina – where more than half of the Democratic primary voters in 2008 were African-American – and other states more diverse than New Hampshire or Iowa, which held the first contest of the 2016 election.

Sanders met Sharpton in the same Harlem restaurant where the activist met with Barack Obama during his 2008 presidential campaign – an obvious bit of symbolism for the Vermont senator trying to connect with minority voters. REUTERS

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Former priest charged in 1960 rape, murder of Texas beauty queen

A former Catholic priest has been charged in a 55-year-old murder case in which he is suspected of beating and raping a beauty queen in south Texas shortly after taking her last confession, authorities said Wednesday.

John Feit, 83, was arrested Tuesday evening in Arizona in connection with the 1960 slaying of Irene Garza, 25, in McAllen, Texas, according to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office in Arizona.

He is being held on $750,000 bond pending extradition to Texas. During an initial court appearance Wednesday, Feit told a Maricopa County judge he will fight the return to Texas.

"This whole thing makes no sense to me because the crime in question took place in 1960," Feit said, in a court video posted on the county website. "I'm totally puzzled why something is coming up now, after the fact." Garza, a former Miss South Texas and second-grade school teacher, was last seen giving confession during Holy Week at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on April 16, 1960, according to the Texas Rangers cold case website.

John Feit MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Her body was found five days later in a nearby canal. An autopsy showed that Garza had been raped while comatose and died of suffocation.

Feit was long considered by authorities to be a suspect in the case but was not indicted. During a 2013 interview with CNN, he denied any involvement in Garza's death.

Shortly after Garza's body was found, Feit was ordered by his church superiors to leave McAllen, the Dallas Morning News reported.

He also had been implicated in the assault of another woman in the area a few weeks before Garza's disappearance. He pleaded no contest to aggravated assault and served no jail time.

Feit later left the priesthood and moved to Arizona, where he started a family. REUTERS

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"A BUILDER TO BELIEVE IN"

Yellen: Fed not likely to reverse course on rates despite risks

Chairwoman's comments are her first in public since the Fed raised rates in December.

Tightening financial conditions and uncertainty over China pose risks to the U.S. recovery, but chances are slim the Federal Reserve would need to reverse the rate tightening cycle it began in December, Fed Chair Janet Yellen told U.S. lawmakers.

Global risks have intensified and could slow the U.S. economy, but "I don't expect the [Federal Open Market Committee] is going to be soon in the situation where it is necessary to cut rates," Yellen said. "There is always a risk of a recession ... and global financial developments could produce a slowing in the economy."

But "I think we want to be careful not to jump to a premature conclusion about what is in store for the U.S. economy. I don't think it is going to be necessary to cut rates."

In prepared remarks to the House Committee on Financial Services, she acknowledged a series of global problems that have grown worse since then. Financial conditions overall have tightened, driven by falling stock prices, uncertainty over China and a global reassessment of credit risk that could throw the U.S. economy off track.

Some of those problems threaten to become self re-enforcing, with weak growth in major manufacturers like China and oversupply on commodity markets rattling the world's oil and mineral exporters. A broad sense of a world slowdown, in turn, and uncertainty about the depth of China's problems, could further tighten financial conditions for U.S. businesses and households. REUTERS

Janet Yellen, chairwoman of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, testifies during a House Financial Services Committee hearing on monetary policy and the state of the economy in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

"I think we want to be careful not to jump to a premature conclusion about what is in store for the U.S. economy. I don't think it is going to be necessary to cut rates."

Yellen

BRIEF

FBI arrests race car driver in massive payday lending scheme

A professional race car driver was arrested by the FBI on Wednesday after U.S. regulators previously accused him of engaging in a massive scheme to deceive payday lending customers, a spokeswoman for the bureau said.

Scott Tucker, who competes on U.S. and European circuits and had been the target of an investigation by federal prosecutors in New York City, was arrested in Kansas City, Kansas, along with one of his lawyers, Timothy Muir.

Their arrests were confirmed by Kelly Langmesser, a spokeswoman for the FBI, and followed a probe related to payday lending entities that authorities said Tucker controlled, including AMG Services Inc.

The indictment also charged Timothy Muir, who prosecutors said was general counsel to Tucker's Overland Park, Kansas-based company AMG Services Inc, which claimed to be owned by the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

Two tribal corporations controlled by the tribe have agreed to forfeit $48 million in a non-prosecution deal, Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said. REUTERS

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BMW, Volkswagen, Daimler recall vehicles in US with Takata air bags

The three largest German automakers said they will recall 2.5 million vehicles in the United States equipped with Takata Corp. air bags, the latest moves in a long-running safety crisis involving the Japanese automotive supplier.

On Wednesday, Volkswagen said it would recall 850,000 vehicles and BMW said it would recall 840,000 vehicles. That followed Tuesday's announcement by Daimler AG that it was recalling 840,000 vehicles.

Takata-made air bag GETTY IMAGES

The vehicles to be recalled have Takata-made air bag inflators that the Japanese supplier declared defective last month, affecting 5.1 million vehicles in the United States. The recalls by the German automakers bring the announced vehicle recalls to the total outlined by Takata.

These recalls involve newer model-year vehicles than previous ones involving Takata. The BMW recalls include one 2015 model.

The recalls mark the latest expansion of a safety crisis over defective Takata air bags that began in 2009. Some 24 million U.S. vehicles involving about 28 million Takata air bag inflators have been recalled.

Earlier, Honda Motor Co. recalled 2.23 million U.S. vehicles in the most recent Takata expansion. Ford Motor Co. has recalled 361,000 Ranger pickup trucks and Mazda Motor Corp. nearly 20,000 B-Series trucks.

REUTERS

BRIEF

Judge clears Kentucky clerk, OKs marriage licenses with her name removed

The federal judge who threw Kentucky county clerk Kim Davis into jail last year for refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples said she had not interfered with the process since her release and that licenses with her name removed should still be valid.

U.S. District Court Judge David Bunning ruled late on Tuesday that Rowan County's Davis, who spent five days in jail last September for her stand on marriage licenses for gay couples, had not interfered with her deputies issuing the licenses.

When she returned to work, Davis removed her name, title and personal authorization from the licenses.

REUTERS

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Want to be happy, tolerant, young? UAE has a ministry for that

Burj Al Arab hotel by the beach GETTY IMAGES

It sounds a bit New Age, but the United Arab Emirates has just appointed state ministers for happiness, tolerance and youth.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, the UAE prime minister who is also the ruler of Dubai, announced the new lineup Wednesday via his official Twitter account.

It is apparently part of a move to show the government is offering more than simply providing basic services for its citizens.

"Happiness in our nation is not a wish ... but there will be plans, projects and programs and indicators ... and it will be part of the work of all our ministries ... and a part of our way of life," Sheikh Mohammed tweeted.

Sheikha Lubna al-Qassimi, the former development and international cooperation minister, was made state minister for tolerance.

Twenty-two year old, Western-educated Shama al-Mazroui was made state minister for youth affairs.

"The new lineup is a new stage whose headline is the future ... the youth ... happiness ... developing education ... and dealing with climate change to protect our environment."

Sheikh Mohammed

The United Arab Emirates, which has one of the highest levels of GDP per capita in the Arab world, is seen as a haven of stability in a region beset by turmoil and where public devotion to rulers is high and little dissent is tolerated.

It is home to the glitzy emirate of Dubai, which transformed from a desert backwater to a global financial hub, where thousands of Arab expatriates flock to seek professional and entrepreneurial opportunities not available in as much supply in other unstable Arab countries.

Sheikh Mohammed had announced earlier this week plans to outsource most government tasks to the private sector and cuts to the number of ministries.

The announcement came as energy-rich Gulf Arab states have been hit by low oil prices, encouraging them to streamline institutions and attract more foreign investment.

The cabinet lineup left the same figures in the critical portfolios of finance, economy, energy, defense and foreign affairs. REUTERS

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Rethinking the runway

Fashion Week needs a makeover, designer Rebecca Minkoff leads the charge with her buy-now-wear-now collection. Oh, and consumers? Don't forget to RSVP.

TINA CHADHA
@TinaatMetro
tina.chadha@metro.us

Designer Rebecca Minkoff attempts to evolve the Fashion Week model with her SS2016 Collection. NATASHA JAHANGIR

What happens when Fashion Week stops being fashionable?

If you're Rebecca Minkoff, you flip it on its head.

"We talk a lot about wanting to be pioneers and wanting to disrupt," says the 36-year-old designer, black leather moto draped across her shoulders with rebel insouciance. But most designers continue to maintain the status quo.

"Someone pointed out to us whenever we follow the old way, the way we should go, we never win," she says. "And the second this person said that, I was like, 'I'm not scared at all. F— it.'"

This season, Minkoff is ditching the traditional fashion-show system. Today, as New York Fashion Week kicks off, most designers will present their Fall 2016 collections, available to consumers in August. But in our age of social media, images of the clothes are instantly everywhere: blogs, Instagram, live-streams. By the time garments hit the sales floor six months later, customers are sick of them and onto the next thing.

Minkoff, instead, will show her Spring 2016 line, arriving in stores within 30 days. The see-now-buy-now plan better satisfies her plugged-in customer.

"It really gives the fashion show new meaning," she says. "If a blogger or a celebrity posts an image, it's now actionable and you can go buy those goods."

The game-changing decision, announced in December, is also a reaction to an industrywide complaint of fashion fatigue.

"So a year ago, Uri [Minkoff's brother and co-founder] was like, 'There's something wrong. No one is excited,'" recalls the designer. "And I could see the video screen during my show. People looked bored out of their minds. They were on their phones. They weren't even watching the show. They were just doing this." Minkoff picks up her phone and pretends to take pictures." And I was like, 'I just worked my ass off, and no one is paying attention.'"

So why not just engage the consumer directly? In another radical move, Minkoff will invite "top customers" of the brand to her shows.

The designer isn't the only one gearing up for change. Hours after her big news, the Council of Fashion Designers of America announced that it enlisted Boston Consulting Group to conduct a seven-week study "to define the future of fashion shows."

And other designers are breaking free. Tom Ford, Thakoon Panichgul and Matthew Williamson have all announced their own twists on the traditional show. The biggest brand to join the charge is British label Burberry, which announced last week it plans to show "seasonless" men's and women's collections together, twice a year. The collections will be available to customers directly after they hit the runway.

While others in the industry wait and watch this go-round, for Minkoff the timing is right.

"Trying to follow the old way and old guard — that whole system never worked for us," she says. "So now we can just free fall and not be worried about the landing."

> *"It really gives the fashion show new meaning. ... If a blogger or a celebrity posts an image, it's now actionable and you can go buy those goods."*
>
> Minkoff

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Girl talk with Carol Lim

The designer says always make time for a drink with your #squad.

TINA CHADHA
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Carol Lim designed the new limed-edition Chandon rosé bottle. **ALL IMAGES PROVIDED**

Like the LBD, rosé has become a fixture in the fashion world.

So it's no surprise that Chandon enlisted a fashion designer to create the look for its limited-edition pink bubbly. Enter: Carol Lim. The co-founder of beloved New York City concept store Opening Ceremony and co-creative force behind Parisian label Kenzo covered the bottle in a groovy print of sunglasses-clad women titled "Girl Talk."

We gab with Lim about the importance of grabbing a drink with your bestie, and how her husband trumps everyone else's Valentine's Day idea.

The bottle design feels perfect for Valentine's Day without being overly Valentine's Day.

It's true, I actually didn't think about that. I'm not super well-versed on wine. When I go and buy wines I get super swayed by how things look. I feel like this bottle pops really well.

You said the design is about hanging out with your friends, but your time is limited. So how often do you actually do it?

I try to squeeze it in at all times throughout the week, even if it's 40 minutes during the day. Humberto [Leon, the co-founder of Opening Ceremony], and I'll sneak out and grab dim sum. So much inspiration comes from that dialogue. I wouldn't say I get to do it as much as I'd like to, because before we'd go out every night, but at least a couple of times a week I like to catch up with different people. It helps nourish the brain, and is good to decompress.

If someone looked at your personal Pinterest board what would they find that you're really into?

They would find that I'm super into anything home related, because 10 months ago we moved to Brooklyn and we've been spending a lot of time thinking about each thing we put in [our home]. So that's been fun.

What's the most romantic gesture that's happened to you lately?

When someone takes the time to make you something, that's pretty meaningful, because not only does it require a lot of thought, but it's both personal and it's actually someone's time. My husband made me a very large volume book of every text message and photo we sent each other during the first year we were dating. It's huge! Like 900 pages but it's pretty amazing.

With OC and Kenzo, you're always on the go. What's a tool or mantra that helps you get it all done?

For us, honestly it's about having fun along the way. When we are traveling abroad, if we're in a car going to a meeting and we pass a store and are like, 'Oh that looks interesting,' we always stop for 10 minutes and squeeze it in. We're really of the motto that even if it's 10 minutes, stop and try to enjoy something.

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Guests at Dao-Yi Chow's Chinese New Year celebration wore custom-made masks by Max Steiner. KIRILLWASHERE.COM

Celebrating Chinese New Year with Dao-Yi Chow

The coolest masks in the game.

TINA CHADHA
@TinaatMetro
tina.chadha@metro.us

Dao-Yi Chow and Canis Chow KIRILLWASHERE.COM

Monday kicked off the Year of the Monkey. To celebrate the Lunar New Year, Public School and DKNY co-designer Dao-Yi Chow and his wife Canis Chow took over the iconic NYC hot spot Indochine for an intimate dinner. The event, sponsored by Hennessy V.S.O.P Privilège, was filled with designers and models, wearing cool custom-made monkey masks. We got the host — who gave each guest red envelopes with eight $1 bills inside — to tell us the difference between hanging with a DKNY vs. Public School girl.

What was Chinese New Year like growing up?
As a little kid all you really care about is the little red envelope. [Laughs] Once you get past that it was about family, all your local family getting together and having dinner. The whole idea of an Asian family, being respectful to your parents and elders, those [values] were really reinforced.

How do you guys celebrate at home now?
We do the same thing. Had we not been hosting this we would have had dinner at home with my sister and her two kids and my parents. But we would probably go out to eat. It was the same way when we were younger.

Why did you want to host this dinner?
It's good to celebrate Chinese New Year with other than just Chinese people. So it was about bringing people together from, not only just fashion, but art and music and sports, so you can give them a sense of the culture and all the different traditions.

What customs did you put them on to?
We made these custom plexi masks for the Year of the Monkey with artist Max Steiner. It was more the astrology behind the Year of the Monkey and what that meant. The monkey represents change and movement and getting those messages across. My grandmother was a Chinese opera singer and they wore those masks, so it was sort of inspired by that also.

This is an event sponsored by Hennessy, so let's talk spirits. If you saw a DKNY girl and a Public School girl at a bar, what would their vibe be?
Would they be in the same bar? [Laughs] I mean they are pretty similar. The DKNY girl is a little bit older than the Public School girl. The Public School girls are more creative and the DKNY girl is more determined. She's maybe a little further along in her career. The Public School girl is drinking beer and the DKNY girl is drinking something with vodka in it. I'm not a big drinker, so I don't know the big differences.

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Gwen Stefani's new track listings are curious

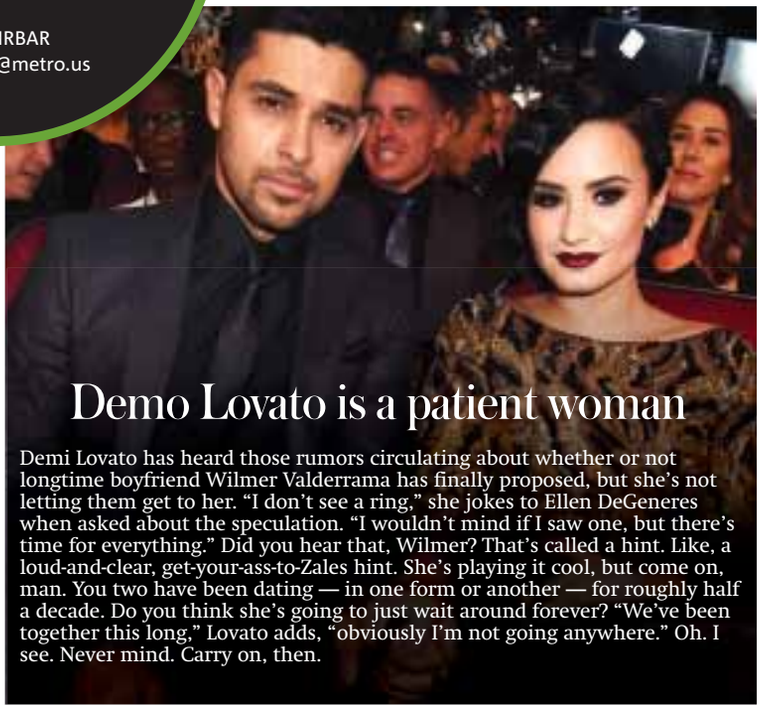
Gwen Stefani was feeling a bit revealing this week, letting slip what appears to be the full 12-song lineup for her new solo album. And while the first single, "Used to Love You," which came out late last year, suggests a focus on the end of her marriage to Gavin Rossdale, the complete list isn't as bleak as you might expect. The fun part comes in guessing which tracks might be Rossdale-related and which might be about new at-work boyfriend Blake Shelton. Sure, there are more than a few titles in the dozen that suggest they won't be the happiest of numbers — "Misery," "Truth" and "Red Flag" are particular standouts — but a lot of the titles seem downright perky. It's possible that "You're My Favorite," "Make Me Like U," "Asking 4 It" and "Naughty" could actually turn out to be really sad, but I kind of doubt it. Of course, there's no release date yet for the album, so who knows how long it will be until we can actually put some of these into context.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The Fresh Prince ain't mad at Aunt Viv

Will Smith isn't letting this Oscars boycott fuss go just yet — at least not until he makes sure everyone realizes he and Jada Pinkett Smith aren't merely miffed about him not being recognized for "Concussion" by the Academy. "It's so far not about me. It's not about us going to a show or not. For me, it's a much bigger social issue," Smith says in an interview with BBC Radio 1Xtra. "I'm recognizing a pattern of the narrowing of the imagery and the narrowing of tolerance in America. For the last 18 months that I've been watching the news and experiencing the things that are going on in my country, my concern is that Hollywood is reflecting a regressive trend."

Of course, he couldn't address the Oscars issue without turning to Janet Hubert, who played Aunt Viv on "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" and recently criticized Smith and his wife for the Oscars backlash. "I think she is brilliant," Smith offers. "As an artist, there's so many things that she does. She sings, she dances, she's like a really powerful artist, so I love what she brought to 'The Fresh Prince.'" Way to take the high road, buddy.



Demo Lovato is a patient woman

Demi Lovato has heard those rumors circulating about whether or not longtime boyfriend Wilmer Valderrama has finally proposed, but she's not letting them get to her. "I don't see a ring," she jokes to Ellen DeGeneres when asked about the speculation. "I wouldn't mind if I saw one, but there's time for everything." Did you hear that, Wilmer? That's called a hint. Like, a loud-and-clear, get-your-ass-to-Zales hint. She's playing it cool, but come on, man. You two have been dating — in one form or another — for roughly half a decade. Do you think she's going to just wait around forever? "We've been together this long," Lovato adds, "obviously I'm not going anywhere." Oh. I see. Never mind. Carry on, then.

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Bill Gates
As a kid, I loved tinkering with computers. It's cool to see high-tech tools like 3-D printers in classrooms

Alec Baldwin
If ever I get convicted of a crime and sentenced to prison, I think, instead, I'll go home to New Jersey, take a deep breath.

Billie Jean King
The most qualified candidate for President happens to be a woman & electing @HillaryClinton would be a revolutionary moment in our history

things to do

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WHERE TO EAT, DRINK & PLAY

Fairest of them all

A box of chocolates has nothing on these gorgeous desserts for Valentine's Day.

EVA KIS
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eva.kis@metro.us

PROVIDED

Candy Conversation Heart Éclairs

The Back Room, 153 W. 57th St.
We all used candy conversation hearts to flirt in middle school, and the tradition lives on with these eclairs topped with pastel frostings and filled with a chocolate-lavender-chamomile cream. Besides the ready-made "Kiss Me," hearts and other motifs, you can customize your own message, so get working on those hashtags.

Concord Cake (top)

Breads Bakery, 1890 Broadway
Soutine Bakery was an Upper West Side favorite — it was the first to elevate the birthday cake right into the pages of New York magazine — until it closed in 2012. A little piece of it lives on at the newest outpost of Breads Bakery with the Concord Cake, a cloud of mousse-meringue chocolates recreated in collaboration with Soutine's owner.

Red Velvet Milkshake

Black Tap, 529 Broome St., 248 W. 14th St.
Chef Joe Isidori's outrageous milkshakes are all over Instagram, so make sure to bring something (besides your love to keep you warm) for the nearly two-hour lines that can form at both Black Tap locations. This Valentine's Day special combines vanilla and chocolate ice creams (so no one has to compromise!) and attaches red M&Ms and Hershey's Kisses with chocolate frosting, then tops it with an entire slice of red velvet cake.

PROVIDED

KATIE BURTON

Valentine's Dessert

Rebelle, 218 Bowery
Forget giving your special someone a star in the sky (they're just gas giants, anyway) when they could have a whole galaxy of classic French flavors. Finish your special meal at the Michelin-starred restaurant with this hazelnut cake and honey ganache, chocolate-hazelnut paste, thyme ice cream and vanilla brittle.

PROVIDED

Pink Don Huevo

Bodega Negra, 355 W. 16th St.
The Dream Downtown's star dessert is blushing pink for Valentine's Day. Warm Negra Modelo caramel sauce is poured tableside over the shell to melt the "egg" and reveal a dark chocolate molten lava cake (and whatever else you'd like to keep hidden until a key moment?) inside.

Listings

WINTER

Ice Festival

Feb. 13, 3-7 p.m.
Naumberg Bandshell
Central Park
Free, Centralparknyc.org
Expect pure winter magic when ice sculptors from Okamoto Studios turn over 6,000 pounds of ice into glistening replicas of Central Park's famous statues. Stick around for silent disco at sunset.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine Tours

Feb. 13-14
Museum of Modern Art
11 W. 53rd St.
$200 per couple, MOMA.org
Tickets are miraculously still available for Valentine Tours at MoMA, which starts with a wine-and-hors d'oeuvres reception then leads you and bae through the museum, including the special exhibition, "Toulouse Lautrec's Paris."

Hi/Low Films

Feb. 13-14
Syndicated, 40 Bogart St.
$3-$5, Syndicatedbk.com
Bushwick's new indie cinema, restaurant and bar is pairing highbrow and lowbrow films, which this weekend is all about love with either an "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" and "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" pairing (for the cynics out there) or a matchup of the heartrending "Once" and the horrific "My Bloody Valentine," all with a special menu for the holiday.

The Amazing Valentine's Day Scavenger Hunt

Feb. 14, 2 p.m.
Slattery's, 8 E. 36th St.
$25, Pogoevents.com
Do something more fun than dinner — especially if this is your first date. Slattery's is here for you with a scavenger hunt of physical and mental challenges to see the city in a fun new way.

Go F*ck Yourself

Feb. 14, 8 p.m.
Slipper Room, 167 Orchard St.
$10, Theloveshownyc.com
Inviting you to "bring a lover ... or leave with one," The Love Show promises a scintillating evening of seduction — onstage and perhaps off! The Slipper Room's famous burlesque repertoire is always a little naughty, but for Valentine's Day they'll spice up their usual blend of burlesque, cabaret, ballet and comedy with vocalists, a contortionist and magic.

ARTS

FRIGID New York

Feb. 16-March 6
Multiple locations
Price vary, Horsetrade.info
When you give artists an uncensored platform, you get some wacky and wonderful works. And when it's the 10th anniversary of FRIGID New York, it's going to be especially wild, with more than 150 performances over three weeks. Fans of "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies" will get a kick out of "Emily Dickinson: Paranormal Investigator," while "Hamilton" aficionados should check out "Lil Women: A Rap Musical."

WORKSHOP

DIY Pop-Up Books

Feb. 11, 6-8 p.m.
Etsy Labs, 55 Washington St., Suite 712
Free with RSVP, Etsy.com
You don't have to have kids to enjoy pop-up books, and this all-ages class run by Esther K. Smith of Etsy's Purgatory Pie Press will end with at least one piece of your very own 3-D handiwork.

PARTY

'80s vs. '90s Party

Feb. 13, 10:30 p.m.
Cutting Room, 44 E. 32nd St.
$15+, Thecuttingroomnyc.com
Queen or Green Day? AC/DC or Alice in Chains? Michael Jackson or Janet Jackson? If you find yourself debating which decade offered the best music, the '80s vs. '90s Party is the place to dance it out.

MEET 'N GREET

Sports Illustrated's Swim City

Feb. 15-16, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Altman Building, 135 W. 18th St.
Free, SI.com
When it's freezing outside, all you want to think about are tropical beaches. Live the dream when Sports Illustrated brings Swim City back to NYC with interactive games, giveaways, supermodel meet-and-greets and more.

T. MICHELLE MURPHY

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Best Friends

Dunton Hot Springs offers antique miner's cottages, like this one. COURTESY OF DUNTON HOT SPRINGS

The cabins at El Capitan Canyon have modern luxuries like spacious kitchenettes. COURTESY OF EL CAPITAN CANYON

5 Luxurious log cabins across the US

Plan a rustic escape without totally disconnecting.

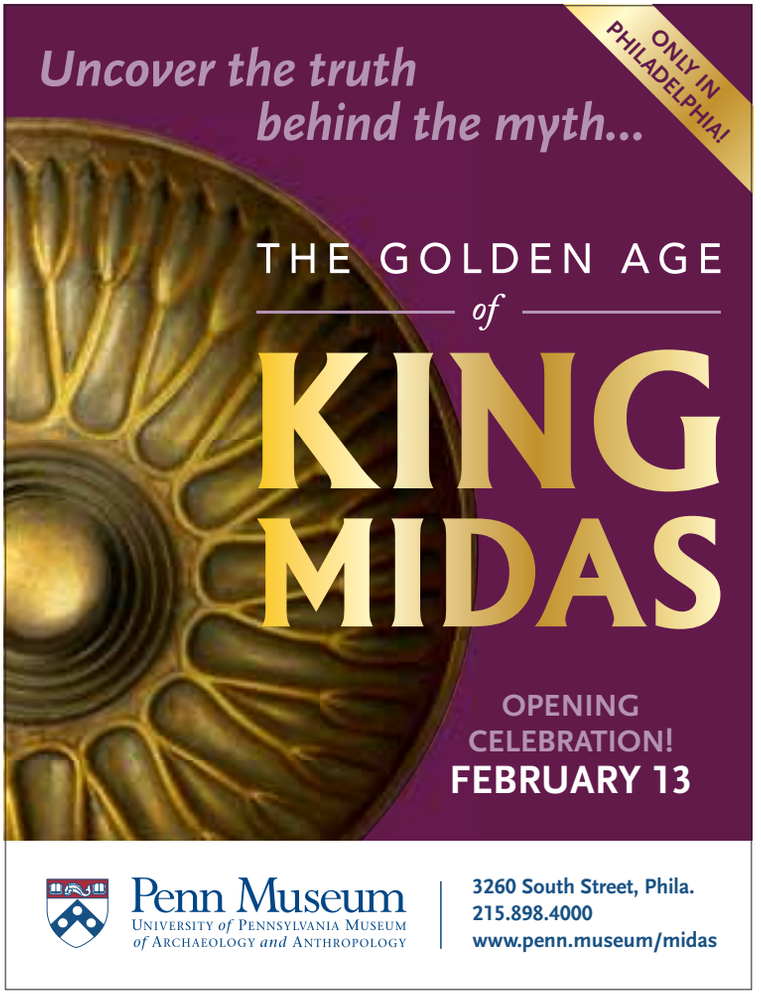
Fodor's Travel

There's something inherently cozy about a rustic, log-cabin getaway, but if a back-to-the-basics vacation — no Wi-Fi! — sounds intimidating, consider a log-cabin hotel. They offer all the charm of a simple A-frame structure in the middle of nowhere, coupled with modern conveniences (hello, room service). Here's our look at some of the most luxurious log cabin-inspired getaways in the U.S., which offer welcome touches like rain-head showers, wood-burning fireplaces and high-thread-count sheets.

Dunton Hot Springs, Colorado

The antique miner's cottages at Dunton Hot Springs look historically accurate from the outside, but the interiors are anything but rustic. This entire resort is crafted from a restored 1800s ghost town. Some of the cabins have outdoor showers to make the most of the mountain views, and there are hot springs on site. Meals are served up in an old saloon, and there's also a dance hall.

Insider Tip: While most people don't as-



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Know this: This is NOT a supplement you can buy over the counter or on the internet. This is a REAL medical treatment that must be given by a trained health care professional.

And the great news is: There is a free report and information kit available that tells you everything you need to know about this treatment. It also tells you all about cutting-edge medical clinics right here in New York City that are offering this cutting-edge treatment with tremendous success.

To get your information kit or to schedule a No-Obligation Risk Free Shoulder Screening simply call 800-627-PAIN (7246).

The Lodge & Spa at Brush Creek Ranch is set on over 30,000 acres. COURTESY OF THE LODGE & SPA AT BRUSH CREEK RANCH

Take in nature in one of Post Ranch Inn's glass-designed cottages. COURTESY OF POST RANCH INN

The cabins at The Ranch at Emerald Valley have full modern amenities. KEVIN SYMS

sociate Colorado with wine, Dunton has a sister property called Sutcliffe Vineyards, located about an hour and a half away.

El Capitan Canyon, California

Known as a pioneer of "glamping," El Capitan Canyon is tucked among groves of oak and sycamore trees. The resort offers a mix of safari tents, upscale cedar cabins and adventure yurts. The cabins offer front porches and A-line roofs, and interiors are decked out with all comforts, including full bathrooms and kitchenettes.

Insider Tip: Don't miss the trout sculptures on the property's Larry Callahan Bridge, which symbolize the fish ladders the hotel has helped build to allow safe passage of steelhead trout back to El Capitan Canyon Creek.

The Lodge & Spa at Brush Creek Ranch, Wyoming

This luxury dude ranch is spread over 30,000 acres, and guests of The Lodge & Spa at Brush Creek Ranch have plenty of choices when it comes to accommodation. The cabins range from new builds to renovated historic ones, and interiors are rustic but luxurious, with sitting rooms and glass showers. Some have potbelly stoves or furnaces. Family style feasts are served up in the Lodge Great Room, and activities include horseback riding, fly fishing and clay pigeon shooting.

Insider Tip: To reach the ranch, take the Snowy Range Scenic Byway, which crosses the Medicine Bow Mountains and offers views of the glacial-fed Lake Marie.

Post Ranch Inn, California

The Post Ranch Inn is located high above the Pacific Ocean, and the wood and glass design of the cottages is meant to blend in with the surrounding landscape. While accommodation style varies, some are meant to be a modern riff on a traditional log cabin, such as the standalone Tree Houses, which are built on stilts 9 feet above the forest floor. The Mountain House has a circular design inspired by nearby redwood trees.

Insider Tip: Nearby Pfeiffer Beach is known for its purple sand and natural arches, but head to the far north end of the beach where heart-shaped rocks wash up on shore.

The Ranch at Emerald Valley, Colorado

Guests looking for a more rustic option at the famed Broadmoor resort can opt to stay at The Ranch at Emerald Valley located just a few miles away in the 100,000-acre Pike National Forest. Take your pick from the ten rustic log cabins, which offer one to three bedrooms, as well as fireplaces and every modern amenity. The main lodge offers a patio fire pit for morning "Cowboy Coffee" and evening storytelling. For a taste of the outdoors, guests can spend their time horseback riding, fly fishing, hiking or canoeing.

Insider Tip: Book a spa treatment inside the spa tent, which is located right next to a waterfall.

To see even more luxurious cabins across the country including Colorado's Steamboat Bay Fishing Club and Connecticut's Winvain Farm, go to Fodors.com.

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NBA pickups of the week

1. **Jeff Green, F, Grizzlies**
Marc Gasol's broken foot means a lot more time for Green at the power forward spot.

2. **E'Twaun Moore, G, Bulls**
Derrick Rose is the primary beneficiary of Jimmy Butler's knee injury, but Moore will log huge minutes.

3. **Evan Fournier, SF, Magic**
The trade rumors surrounding Tobias Harris continue to mount. Fournier as a starter is appetizing.

Wide receivers like Allen Robinson are extremely valuable in Dynasty leagues. GETTY IMAGES

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Crestor 20mg	100	$159.99	Singulair 10mg	84	$33.99
Combivent 18/103mcg	600 ds	$124.99	Plavix 75mg	90	$26.99
Symbicort 160/4.5ug	360 ds	$199.99	Premarin 0.625mg	84	$79.99
Cymbalta 60mg	90	$49.99	Pristiq 50mg	100	$139.99
Namenda 10mg	84	$104.99	Janumet 50/1000mg	112	$239.99
Nexium 40mg	90	$114.99	Protonix 40mg	84	$29.99
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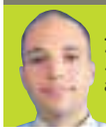

ADAM LEVITAN
alevitan@metro.us

Deep down, we all think we can do better than professional general managers. I never would have dumped $63 million on Byron Maxwell, taken JaMarcus Russell No. 1 overall or traded a 29-year-old Randy Moss to the Patriots.

Of course, I'll never get to be general manager, so I have to prove it in a fantasy world. The best place to do so is a Dynasty league. This format mirrors real football in that owners have players forever and rosters are only supplemented through a yearly rookie draft or trades. We constantly have to balance between staying young enough for the future and winning now.

Some tips for succeeding in Dynasty leagues:

Wide on wide receiver

Even before the NFL change skewed their rules toward the pass, wideouts were the kings of Dynasty. Running backs have an extremely short shelf life, quarterback is the deepest position and tight ends typically don't score enough raw points. If we land an elite wide receiver early in his career, we can have a stud for a literal decade. That's why young, big, gifted wideouts such as Allen Robinson, Mike Evans, Sammy Watkins, Amari Cooper, Martavis Bryant and Dorial Green-Beckham are far more valuable in Dynasty than standard 2016 leagues.

Talent over opportunity

Real-life general managers often make personnel decisions based on need. That's a surefire way to run into problems down the road. Dynasty players have to take a similar long-view, understanding that having good players is more important than how many fantasy points they can get us in the short term. An example from last year was Ronnie Hillman, who was producing at a solid level but is not a difference-making talent. Resisting the urge to give up a struggling but high-ceiling asset like Melvin Gordon for a guy like Hillman is crucial.

NFL news

In true Marshawn Lynch fashion, he coyly announced his retirement on Twitter during the Super Bowl. Fantasy players and the Seahawks have been expecting this. Look for 2015 UDFA Thomas Rawls to enter camp as the No. 1 back and a borderline first-round fantasy pick. Rawls was wildly impressive when Lynch was sidelined last season, averaging 5.64 YPC on his 147 carries. Athletic freak Christine Michael is shaping up as Rawls' primary backup on early downs.

Changing environments

Standard fantasy leaguers can significantly downgrade or even ignore players in bad situations such as Cleveland, St. Louis, Tennessee or San Francisco. Dynasty leaguers should not. Demaryius Thomas went from a Tim Tebow plodding offense to one of the best offenses ever under Peyton Manning. Rex Ryan left the Jets and allowed the pass game to spread its wings.

NHL power rankings | by Rich Slate

No. 1

Capitals (39-9-4)

The Capitals continue to leave everyone, particularly teams in the East, in their dust. They have the most points in the NHL (82) and the best goal-differential (plus-56). D.C has 30 games left in the regular season but might as well start planning for the playoffs.

No. 2

B'Hawks (36-17-4)

San Jose blanked Chicago 2-0 on Tuesday at the United Center but the Blackhawks are still the clear No. 1 team in the Western Conference. Chicago has a goal-differential of plus-29 which is tied with Dallas for the best mark in the West. Speaking of the Stars, Chicago hosts Dallas Thursday in a showdown.

No. 3

Stars (34-15-5)

Ahead of Thursday's meeting with Chicago, Dallas picked up a key 4-3 overtime win at Minnesota on Tuesday thanks to emerging young defenseman John Klingberg (9 goals, 35 assists, plus-15). The Stars have the second most points (73) in the Western Conference and third-most in the NHL.

No. 4

Panthers (32-16-6)

The Panthers might be ahead of schedule this season but so far in the dog days of February, they are showing no signs of slowing down. Florida has the second-most points (70) in the East and they lead the Atlantic by eight points. They have allowed just 123 goals (2nd fewest in the East).

No. 5

Kings (32-17-3)

It's rare that a single game in the Marathon known as the NHL regular season makes you sit up and take notice but LA's 9-2 blowout of the Bruins on Tuesday was something else. Milan Lucic (13 goals, 20 assists) had a goal and an assist in his first return to Boston as a visiting player.

No. 6

Blues (30-17-9)

The Blues' tendency is to be a strong team in the regular season, then, like clockwork, crumbles in the postseason. Do you really see that being any different this year? St. Louis' goal-differential is only plus-2 which is not a good sign for a team that could be a high seed in the playoffs.

No. 7

Rangers (30-17-9)

As I've said for a long time, the Rangers are playing for second-place in the Metro, but at least now they seemed to have regained their footing (7-3-0 in last 10). They are four points ahead of Pittsburgh, so Wednesday's meeting in the Steel City is important for both teams.

No. 8

Islanders (28-18-6)

The Islanders have won their last two games and are 6-3-1 in their last 10 to pull within three points of the Rangers. They have a better goal-differential (plus-17) than the Rangers and the Islanders are also over .500 on the road (11-10-3) so needless to say, those clubs are evenly matched.

Beason waving football goodbye

After nine NFL seasons, three of them Pro Bowl worthy, Giants' linebacker Jon Beason is calling it a career. Drafted by the Panthers, Beason has 829 tackles in 93 career games. The Giants also announced Wednesday that they had released offensive linemen Will Beatty and Geoff Schwartz. GETTY IMAGES

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mapus The Future of Crohn's Research

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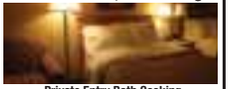

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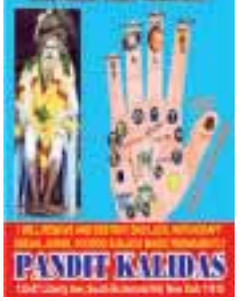

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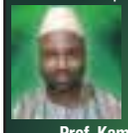

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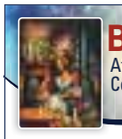

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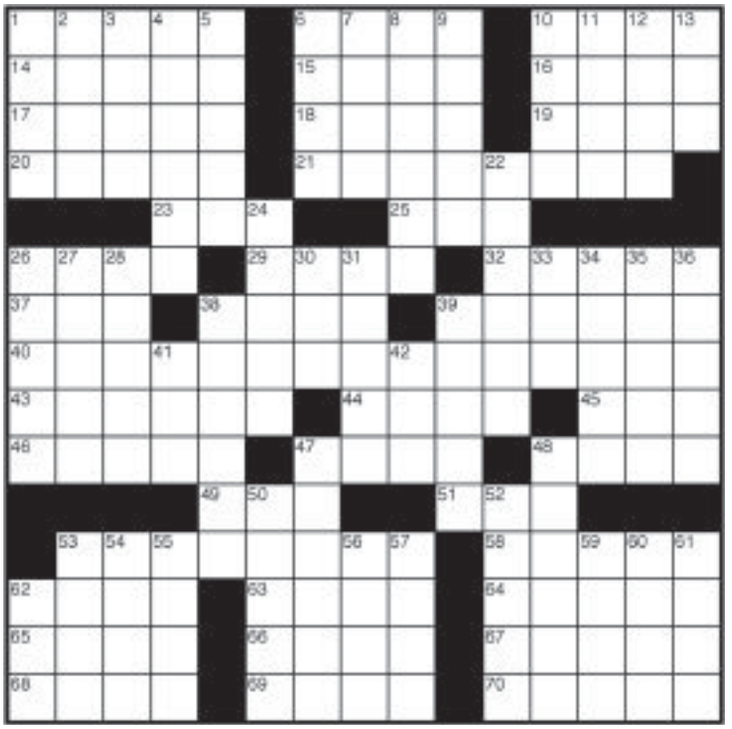

Across

1 "Where's — ?"
6 Hot tub features
10 Go radioactive
14 Pen name
15 Coalition
16 Lucy Lawless role
17 — globulin
18 — Romeo
19 Ms. Sommer
20 Kind of preview
21 Mirrors
23 Stockholm carrier
25 Actress – Williams
26 Friar of legend
29 Clean the counter
32 Ran its course
37 "Sort of" suffix
38 Trig function
39 Miner's trough
40 Shrugs off (3 wds.)
43 Quays
44 Ancient ointment
45 Henri's landmass
46 Perpendicular
47 Bronte's Jane —
48 Centurion's route
49 Grey Cup org.
51 Smite a knight
53 Fairy ring component
58 FYI notes
62 Gloom
63 Mayberry kid
64 She took the veil
65 All, in combos
66 Cellphone button
67 Fluffy quilt
68 Part of PGA
69 Reproving clucks
70 Lift up

Down

1 Shakes a finger
2 Alda of "M*A*S*H"
3 Key — pie
4 Table linen, often
5 Port near Kyoto
6 Hook-shaped ski tow
7 "Vogue" rival
8 Chewy candy
9 Hot coffee hazard
10 Business VIP
11 Defrost
12 Writing fluids
13 – kwon do
22 Place for shadow
24 Zurich resident
26 Championship
27 Seat formally
28 Baked-potato garnish
30 Rustic lodging
31 Many-petaled blossom
33 Sister
34 Can you — —?
35 Mademoiselle's school
36 Postpone
38 Artist's rendering
39 Fragment
41 Toshiba rival
42 Deckhand
47 Weds on the run
48 Two-nation peninsula
50 Cold snap
52 Earth pigment
53 Football corsages
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56 Shoat quote
57 Docs prescribe them
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easy

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2		6	1				9	3
			2	6				
8					3		6	
	6		7	1	2		8	
	5		4					9
				7	5			
5	1				8	2		6
			9			4		8

hard

		7	3	5			8	
				6	8		3	4
						1	9	
6						8	5	7
			5		6			
5	8	9						6
	5	8						
9	6		7	3				
	1			4	2	5		

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Aries Observation will help you recognize what will work. Be fastidious in the way you approach your job in order to avoid the wrath of someone waiting for you to screw up.

Taurus What you do out of kindness and respect will result in all sorts of rewards. Your actions will make others take notice and put you in the running for a special position.

Gemini Don't jump in to something too quickly. What sounds feasible will turn out to be a fiasco. Bide your time and consider the practicality of whatever you want to pursue.

Cancer Surprise everyone by making an unusual change to the way you look or live. It's time to shake things up a bit and to do things the way you want to do them.

Leo You'll feel anxious if you give in to someone you disagree with. Don't be afraid to say no or walk away from an argument that is impossible to win.

Virgo Avoid bullies and fast talkers. Explore your ideas and invest in the possibilities that make you the most excited. Be true to yourself and spend time with like-minded people.

Libra Trust in your abilities and make the changes that will bring you a high return. Back away from situations that are limiting. Don't be afraid to make a move.

Scorpio Speak up, share your ideas and concerns, and make things happen. You can make a difference if you put your plans in motion. Love freely and unconditionally.

Sagittarius Stop before you go too far. There will be a fine line between too little and too much. Moderation in all your dealings will be the key to success.

Capricorn Your instincts will lead you to something that will change your life. An open mind will encourage others to share their aspirations. You can make a difference.

Aquarius Stick to your game plan. Giving in to temptation will not end well. Strive to reach the personal and professional goals that will help you excel.

Pisces You will get ahead, make financial gains and find your niche if you are diligent in your pursuit of happiness and satisfaction. Romance will ease stress. EUGENIA LAST

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